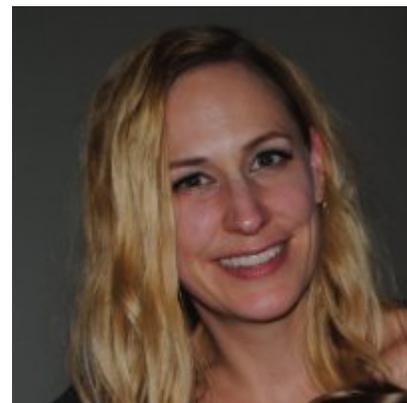


Karen Collins is currently the Manager, Health, Safety and Emergency Management at Douglas College. She graduated with a B.A. in Archaeology and Criminology from Simon Fraser University in 1997, a Bachelor of Technology (Honour's, Student Achievement Award) from the BC Institute of Technology in 2007, a M.A in Disaster and Emergency Management (Chancellor's Award) from Royal Roads University in 2010, and Emergency Management and Exercise Design Certificates from the Justice Institute of BC in 2010 and 2011. Karen is also an Associate Business Continuity Professional (ABCP).

After joining the New Westminster Police Department in 1995 as a Reserve Constable, Karen became a Sworn Constable in 1997. She had opportunity to work in the General Patrol Section, Street Crime Unit and Forensic Identification Section as a forensic identification specialist. She flew to New York in November of 2001 and again in 2002 to shadow police site operations at 'Ground Zero'. It changed the direction of her career.

In December, 2004, Karen left policing to join the BC Coroners Service (BCCS). She was appointed as a Coroner in/for the Province of BC in February, 2005. As a Coroner, Karen conducted 100's of death investigations. Her expertise lies with the search, excavation and recovery of human remains. She spent the majority of her time with BCCS as a member of the Identification and Disaster Response Unit where she responded to scenes with complex identification or operational requirements. She was tasked with researching and producing the Provincial Mass Fatality Response Plan and chaired the provincial Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Taskforce as well as the Fatality Management Canada Working Group. A highlight of her coroner career was being seconded to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics as a member of the Integrated Public Safety and Security Teams as the Coroner responsible for overall fatality management planning. Karen's passion for DVI continues as she advocates for the development of fatality management services within BC and across Canada. She continues to teach death investigation and human remains recovery at BCIT.



Karen's involvement with SIMTEC has thus far included serving on the Expert Working Group as a subject matter expert on fatality management and providing support with respect to planning, research, exercise facilitation and training. She particularly appreciates the value of the research being conducted for the SIMTEC project because of her personal research interests which entail ethical and psychosocial considerations that come to play within disaster victim identification operations.